

ASHP Council on Pharmacy Practice
New Practitioner Experience
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One of the many benefits of ASHP membership is the ability to serve on a council. The major function of councils is to provide initiate and review policies as well as provide advice to the Board of Directors. As a new practitioner, it was an honor to be appointed to the Council on Pharmacy Practice. This 1 year commitment includes attendance at Policy Week in Bethesda, Maryland, participation in Legislative Day in Washington DC, and various other activities as necessary.

Policy Week began with an orientation session for new committee members to assist in simplifying the policy process and legislative day basics. The orientation was found very useful throughout the week. Afterwards there was a reception to connect with old friends and colleagues and establish new acquaintances, followed by an enlightening dinner with your council group. Committee meeting encompassed the remaining week. Although agendas were long and detailed, the items were evenly distributed between members for discussion and everyone was encouraged to participate in discussions and provide additional input. ASHP provided thorough backgrounds to the agenda items and the information was sent to council members well in advance. We also reviewed existing policies for current application and provided guidance to ASHP guidelines and statements. At the end of the last day ASHP Headquarters hosted a reception which allowed council members to tour the beautiful office. Another event during Policy Week is Legislative Day. Appointments are arranged by ASHP in advance with my local state senators and representatives. We were briefed previously in the week over two core position statements and spent the day lobbying on capital hill. At the end of they day a visit with one of the representatives had been discussed to view my practice site.

Overall, the experience has been remarkably worthwhile. My fellow council members are knowledgeable, dedicated, and respected practitioners, all of whom I have come to learn from. Many of the networking connections that were established will continue to grow. Policies and documents that were discussed during Policy Week will contribute to the best practices of pharmacy and potentially towards standards of care, and continue to make certain that health-system pharmacy has a voice on capital hill are achievements.